

**THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re the Application of : **Ryoichi OTAKI**

Filed : **Concurrently herewith**

5 For : **STARTING APPARATUS FOR AN ENGINE**

Serial No. : **Concurrently herewith**

10 Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

October 16, 2003

15 **PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

S I R:

Prior to the issuance of an Office Action, please amend the specification as follows: